

S6 Shop: Keeping the Iron Gunners Connected:

By Capt. Nina Lauramore

The month of January was full of activity for the Soldiers of the S6 shop in Fires Brigade. The days and nights were filled with establishing communications throughout the Brigade and Headquarters buildings. The soldiers spent the first weeks of January running telephone and internet cables throughout the building, which mostly entails threading cables up through the ceiling and into different offices. Setting up connectivity took up most of the month, but on top of that were the numerous computer issues. Each government computer that connects to the local domain needs to have a certain image or setup so that the domain will recognize it. Therefore when the soldiers were not running cable, they were busy solving trouble tickets for computer problems, which can fill up a day. Although January has been arduous, it has not been all work without reward or recognition.



The S6 shop had the special privilege of having an impromptu combat patch ceremony with the Division Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Major Ronald Riling. All of the soldiers on their first combat tour of duty participated in the ceremony which included Master Sgt. Trevor Jones, Sgt. 1st Class John Terry, Staff Sgt. Lisa Walters, Sgt. Patricia Matos, Spc. Damian Wilson, Spc. Ariel Class, and me, Capt. Nina Lauramore. Riling spoke a few words about the importance of the individual soldier's mission and how we all play a vital part that completes the role of the US combat forces

in Iraq. He explained that although it is an honor and a privilege to deploy, we also need to remind soldiers to be humble and never put down others who have not had this opportunity to deploy and serve their country.

An outstanding Soldier in the communication shop added something else to his uniform in addition to a combat patch. Ariel Class was promoted from Private First Class to Specialist in front of a modest crowd of about five people. It is always a great day in the Army when Soldiers are promoted because it is not only an increase in responsibility for that soldier, it is also how the chain of command shows their faith in that Soldier's potential as a leader.

"Spc. Class has definitely shown that capability to succeed and potential to one day become an outstanding NCO and lead soldiers" says Sgt. Barron Rhodes, one of his supervising NCOs. Spc. Class hopes to become a warrant officer some day soon and continues to challenge himself in order to achieve his goals.

The soldiers of the S-6 shop have the reputation of being some of the hardest workers in the Brigade, but a not so known fact is that they are also some of the fittest soldiers. Well, at least they would like to think so. The local gym has a quarterly weightlifting contest where the winners have their picture taken and displayed on the gym's wall. The winner of each weight class receives a trophy. The two officers in the S6 shop, Maj. Clarence White and me, Capt. Nina Lauramore participated in this quarter's competition. White weighed into the middleweight division and I only had three other female competitors, but they were huge. White successfully lifted 250 lbs and then made a strong attempt at 315 lbs. I had a successful lift of 110 lbs and finished in third place. Although, they did not bring home any trophies, they left their mark in the FOB Liberty weightlifting community and will be returning hopefully with a few more S6 competitors to demolish current 1st place holders and bring home some trophies.

